

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for auditing an optical network, comprising the steps of:
 - transmitting a query to a hardware device in said optical network;
 - receiving a response to said query subsequent to said transmitting;
 - analyzing said response to said query;
 - producing an audit report of said response and said analysis subsequent to said analyzing wherein said audit report is based on network configuration information and wherein a placement of information in said audit report is based on information contained in said response; and
 - transmitting a second query to said hardware device, said second query based on said response to said first query, in order to gather status information of said hardware device.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said report includes recommendations associated with the management of said network.
4. (original) The method described in Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said network is implemented as a DWDM optical network.
5. (original) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said hardware device is a portion of said network's infrastructure.

6. (original) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said hardware device is a DWDM device.
7. (previously presented) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting said transmitted queries is accomplished entirely within said optical network.
8. (previously presented) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said transmitted queries are generated by a dedicated network audit device.
9. (original) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said receiving of said received responses is accomplished entirely within said network.
10. (previously presented) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said first query requests information related to the part number and location in said optical network of said hardware device.
11. (previously presented) The method described in Claim 1, wherein said second query is determined by database reference to the hardware type of said hardware device.

12. (previously presented) The method described in Claim 1, wherein a further step of analyzing said responses to said queries is performed by automated intelligent decision-making.

Claims 13-19 (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A device for auditing an optical network, comprising:
a transmitting element ~~coupled to said optical network~~;
a receiving element coupled to said transmitting element ~~optical network~~; and,
a computing element, coupled to said receiving element ~~optical network~~,
wherein said device for auditing an optical network is capable of formulating and transmitting queries to devices in said optical network and receiving responses to said queries
wherein first and second queries are transmitted to at least one of said devices
and with the second query being based on said response to said first query
and wherein an audit report of said response that is based on network configuration information is produced prior to the transmission of said second query and wherein a placement of information in said audit report is based on information contained in said response.

21. (previously presented) A device as described in Claim 20 wherein said device is further capable of automatically analyzing said responses to said queries.

22. (previously presented) A device as described in Claim 21 wherein said device is further capable of presenting the results of said automatic analyzing in a user-readable format.

23. (previously presented) A device as described in Claim 20 wherein said device is further capable of making recommendations for appropriate action in the management of said optical network.

24. (previously presented) A device as described in Claim 20 wherein at least a portion of said optical network is implemented as a DWDM optical network.

25. (currently amended) A computer useable medium having computer useable code embodied therein causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

- transmitting a query to a hardware device in said optical network;
- receiving a response to said query;
- analyzing said response to said query;
- producing a report of said response and said analysis; and
- transmitting a second query to said hardware device, wherein said second query is based on said response to said first query and wherein an audit report of said response that is based on network configuration information is produced prior to the transmission of said second query wherein a placement of information in said audit report is based on information contained in said response.

26. (previously presented) The computer useable medium in Claim 25, wherein said report includes recommendations associated with the management of said optical network.

27. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein at least a portion of said optical network is implemented as a DWDM optical network.

28. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said hardware device is a portion of said optical network's infrastructure.

29. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said hardware device is a DWDM device.

30. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said step of transmitting said query is accomplished entirely within said optical network.

31. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein transmitted queries are generated by a dedicated network audit device.

32. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said receiving of said received responses is accomplished entirely within said optical network.

33. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said first query requests information related to a part number and location in said optical network of said hardware device.

34. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 25, wherein said second query is determined by database reference to the hardware type of said hardware device.

35. (previously presented) The computer useable medium described in Claim 26, wherein a further step of analyzing said responses to said queries is performed by automated intelligent decision-making.

36. (currently amended) A system for auditing an optical network, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a query to a hardware device in said optical network;

receiving means for receiving a response to said query;

analyzing means for analyzing said response to said query; and

report producing means for producing an audit report of said response prior to a transmission of a second query wherein said

audit report is based on network configuration information and wherein a placement of information in said audit report is based on information contained in said response,

and wherein said transmitting means transmits a second query to said hardware device, said second query being based on said response to said first query, in order to gather status information of said hardware device.

37. (previously presented) The system described in Claim 36, wherein said report includes recommendations associated with the management of said network.

38. (previously presented) The system described in Claim 36, wherein at least a portion of said optical network is implemented as a DWDM optical network.

39. (previously presented) The system described in Claim 36, wherein said hardware device is a portion of said optical network's infrastructure.

40. (previously presented) The system described in Claim 36, wherein said hardware device is a DWDM device.

41. (previously presented) The system described in Claim 36, wherein said transmitting is accomplished entirely within said optical network.

42. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system described in Claim 36, wherein said receiving is accomplished entirely within said optical network.

43. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system described in Claim 36, wherein said first query requests information related to a part number and location in said optical network of said hardware device.

44. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system described in Claim 36, wherein said second query is determined by reference to the hardware type of said hardware device.